

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:164
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
SHORTAGE OF WATER
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many parts of the country are facing acute shortage of water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to make available water in these areas;
- (c) whether the Government have undertaken any new projects for rain water harvesting and storing flood water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) As per the latest assessment made by Central Water Commission (CWC), the average annual water availability in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The per capita water availability is 1820 cubic metre per year (2001) on a national level. However, due to the spatial variability of rain in the country and also because of variation in population density, per capita average annual availability of water in different basins presently varies from 16,990 cubic metre in Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh & Myanmar; 13,636 cubic metre in Brahmaputra-Barak basin to 298 cubic metre in Sabarmati basin. Further, the temporal variability in the rainfall also creates temporary scarcity of water in certain years.

In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Through the concerted efforts of State Governments, an irrigation potential of 99.76 million hectare is expected to have been created by the end of 9th Five Year Plan. This has been possible due to construction of 3596 major and medium projects providing 177 BCM of storage of rain water. Another 207.77 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in the form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs. 8480 crore to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP upto end of 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 2800 crore has been provided for the year 2002-03.

Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis, under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 150.00 crore.

For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins which will accrue benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro- power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.